



MI-CW3309

Michigan Crop Weather

August 17, 2009

Sunny and Warm

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 16, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.11 inches in the southeast Lower Peninsula to 1.16 inches in the northeast Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 6 degrees above normal in the western and eastern Upper Peninsula to 4 degrees above normal in the west central, east central, southwest, and south central Lower Peninsula. Rain showers throughout the week boosted moisture levels in the soil. Crops progressed well this week with the warmer temperatures and rain. Things were looking better despite the cool temperatures experienced in early summer. A grower in the east central Lower Peninsula commented, “We finally are getting the warmer weather we need. I hope we can still catch up. The good rain we received last weekend put all crops in very good position for a good finish if we don’t run out of time.” Another grower in the central Lower Peninsula commented, “The bountiful rains of one week ago easily carried us through the sunny and warm temperatures. More rain in the forecast will continue to help.”

Field Crops

A week of much needed heat and additional moisture in many areas of the State was extremely beneficial for the stressed crops. In the northern Lower Peninsula, crops were reported to be about 2 weeks behind. **Wheat** harvest was complete in many areas of the State. In southeast, preparation of this year’s wheat fields for the next crop was occurring. **Oat** harvest was well underway. **Corn** grew significantly this week with the pleasant weather conditions. However, it still needs time to mature. In the south central it was reported that, “the corn was expected to be about 80% of a good, normal crop and soybeans to be 70% if there is enough time to mature fully before the frost.” **Soybeans** responded well to the sunny weather conditions of last week. There were reports of new blossoms and growth. **Alfalfa** harvest continued as conditions permitted. In the west central a reporter stated, “High humidity of this week did not favor good hay drying conditions.” **Sugarbeets** responded to the recent rains and were beginning to look better. It was reported that Michigan Sugar will start taking sugarbeets on September 15. **Dry beans** continued to advance. In Saginaw, there were reports of Leafhoppers in the crop.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/16/09

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	14	20	63	3
Subsoil	11	21	66	2

Crop condition for week ending 08/16/09

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	3	12	34	42	9
Corn	7	13	32	38	10
Dry beans	5	10	40	35	10
Oats	3	8	30	49	10
Pasture	5	18	35	34	8
Soybeans	7	15	29	40	9

Fruit

Apple fruit size and quality were good in the southwest, as harvest of early varieties began. In the northwest, fruit size ranged from 48 to 60 mm in diameter. Growers in Michigan’s Fruit Ridge worked to recover from damage incurred by high winds on the night of August 9 that ravaged several orchards; damage was variable. **Apricot** harvest was completed in the northwest. **Blueberry** harvest was winding down in the southwest; fruit size and quality was good in irrigated fields. **Peach** harvest continued; bacterial spot symptoms continued to increase. Fruit size of early varieties suffered in the southern region due in part to winter injury, bacterial spot infections and dry conditions; fruit flavor was generally good. **Pears** were over 2 inches in diameter; pear psylla populations continued to build and European red mites caused black leaves in some blocks. European **plums** were being harvested in the southwest, where pitting and gumming was fairly common as a result of bacterial canker in early June; apple maggots continued to be problematic in ripening plums. Harvest of Japanese plums continued in the west central. Harvest of early variety fall **raspberries** was underway in the southwest and continued on early fruiting canes on some farms in the southeast, where berries have been slow to ripen. **Tart cherry** harvest was completed in the west central and continued in the northwest. Verasion began in early variety **grapes** in the southwest; concerns for botrytis and downy mildew increased. In the northwest, growers were pruning or hedging to offset significant growth from the cool, wet weather this season; wine grapes were at berry touch.

Vegetables

Warmer temperatures across the State helped vegetable development, but many growers continued to be concerned with the lack of moisture. Although rain from the previous weekend’s storm provided temporary relief for many producers, some damage to vegetable crops on muck soils was reported. In the Grand Rapids region, **celery** harvest continued; damage from rain was reported to be spotty, but significant for a few growers. **Onion** harvest began this week; although most onion fields looked good, downy mildew did reduce onion yields in some fields. In Oceana County, **snap beans** development continued with few problems reported; however, disease pressures remained high in some **carrot** fields. **Asparagus** fern continued to look good; insect pressure and foliar diseases appeared mostly under control. In the Grand Rapids region, there were reports of viral problems in **squash** fields, and fungal pathogen damage in melon fields, while in the southeast, **pumpkin**, **watermelon**, and **cantaloup** development looked excellent in many fields. Across the State, harvest of **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, **cabbage**, **red beets**, **radishes**, and **lettuce** continued; growers continued to monitor traps for diamond backed moths. **Cucumber** and **pickle** growers continued to monitor and spray fields for downy mildew. **Tomatoes** were in good condition, but ripening slowly. **Pepper** and **eggplant** harvest continued with few problems reported. **Sweet corn** harvest was in full swing across the State last week; European corn borer numbers continued to be low, while corn earworm numbers began to increase. In the southwest, more **potatoes** were harvested with no problems reported.

Crop progress for week ending 08/16/09

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	78	70	87	86
All hay, third cutting	24	17	37	35
Apples, harvested	4	3	0	NA
Blueberries, harvested	75	64	73	76
Corn, silked	91	71	99	95
Corn, dough	21	4	62	55
Dry beans, blooming	79	55	95	97
Dry beans, setting pods	27	12	72	83
Oats, turning yellow	96	93	100	98
Oats, harvested	38	27	70	75
Peaches, harvested	29	22	38	43
Potatoes, harvested	12	9	17	11
Soybeans, blooming	87	82	99	97
Soybeans, setting pods	56	33	90	84
Tart cherries, harvested	93	80	99	99
Winter wheat, harvested	96	92	100	NA

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/16/09 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2009	2008	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	88	48		1,300	1,328		0.40	0.98	1.99	10.43		
Marquette	86	54		1,182	1,251		0.40	0.98	1.99	10.44		
Stephenson	86	50		1,488	1,625		0.46	1.38	2.23	11.25		
Western UP	90	42	6	1,284	1,337	1,423	0.37	0.89	2.06	10.61	14.53	3.69
Cornell	83	53		1,386	1,484		0.38	1.28	3.65	10.69		
Sault St Marie	85	53		1,168	1,302		0.21	1.10	2.39	10.71		
Eastern UP	87	50	6	1,186	1,292	1,234	0.33	1.09	2.89	12.04	13.71	3.53
Beulah	87	56		1,546	1,731		0.27	3.34	5.39	15.17		
Lake City	85	51		1,466	1,663		0.08	2.39	4.06	15.14		
Old Mission	88	51		1,426	1,654		0.63	1.65	3.45	10.05		
Pellston	89	46		1,341	1,571		2.84	3.20	4.51	10.22		
Northwest	89	46	5	1,405	1,603	1,608	0.77	2.05	3.46	11.08	12.87	3.11
Alpena	88	55		1,438	1,648		0.89	2.51	6.10	15.74		
Houghton Lake	87	50		1,475	1,693		0.18	1.05	4.36	14.21		
Rogers City	88	55		1,415	1,606		2.56	4.29	8.63	18.30		
Northeast	89	49	5	1,441	1,650	1,559	1.16	2.32	5.61	15.16	12.92	3.12
Fremont	86	55		1,674	1,822		0.35	3.27	3.80	13.48		
Hart	87	53		1,588	1,716		0.10	1.84	2.45	14.83		
Muskegon	89	57		1,815	1,808		0.39	2.24	2.37	12.63		
West Central	89	49	4	1,667	1,757	1,758	0.25	2.22	3.30	14.38	12.98	3.60
Alma	88	58		1,721	1,945		0.42	3.67	4.34	17.99		
Big Rapids	86	53		1,609	1,852		0.16	3.05	5.63	17.51		
Central	88	53	5	1,663	1,878	1,830	0.33	3.43	4.80	16.32	13.95	3.64
Bad Axe	88	54		1,588	1,855		0.00	0.75	4.72	15.80		
Pigeon	88	53		1,563	1,790		0.01	1.21	4.75	15.78		
Saginaw	89	58		1,759	1,978		0.50	2.14	3.23	15.41		
Standish	88	54		1,562	1,749		0.54	2.28	3.69	14.02		
East Central	89	53	4	1,581	1,863	1,817	0.37	2.03	4.35	16.04	12.69	2.93
Fennville	90	55		1,753	1,832		0.33	2.23	2.26	15.99		
Grand Rapids	89	58		1,949	2,111		0.11	2.46	2.74	19.19		
Holland	91	56		2,026	2,108		0.35	3.63	4.56	26.80		
South Bend, IN	92	56		2,092	2,164		0.24	0.53	1.95	15.15		
Watervliet	91	56		1,902	1,987		0.35	1.75	2.21	14.44		
Southwest	93	52	4	1,918	2,009	1,974	0.25	1.93	2.44	15.91	14.66	3.18
Belding	86	54		1,685	1,878		0.72	3.14	5.97	17.11		
Coldwater	93	53		1,962	1,993		0.01	0.31	1.24	14.27		
Lansing	89	57		1,844	2,041		0.36	4.05	6.45	22.01		
South Central	93	53	4	1,807	1,989	1,952	0.46	2.75	4.04	17.72	14.57	3.36
Detroit	90	62		2,077	2,252		0.00	1.36	2.53	17.11		
Flint	88	56		1,793	2,084		0.28	4.22	5.06	21.32		
Romeo	91	57		1,797	1,977		0.08	3.97	5.27	15.71		
Tipton	90	49		1,853	2,029		0.04	1.27	1.87	14.33		
Toledo, OH	94	58		2,104	2,225		0.46	0.64	2.28	14.22		
Southeast	95	49	5	1,884	2,082	1,938	0.11	1.90	2.72	14.83	14.07	3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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